

I S R A E L,

P O E M:

I N F O U R B O O K S.

C O N T A I N I N G

I. The Captivity of the Children of Israel.

II. Their deliverance from the Land of Egypt through the Hands of Moses and Aaron.

III. Some singular and most remarkable Events at the Red Sea, Wilderness, &c

IV. The last charge and death of Moses, with their happy arrival in the Land of Canaan, interspersed with various other interesting and most entertaining Passages from the Holy Scriptures.

EARNESTLY RECOMMENDED TO THE ATTENTION
OF THE RISING GENERATION.

Against that Peace imparted from above,
To all the Heirs of heav'n's paternal Love,
Earth shall combin'd Hostilities maintain,
And th' infernal regions rage in vain.

By ELIZABETH SMITH.

B I R M I N G H A M,

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SUBSCRIBERS.

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applause, meet with the approbation of my friends, (of which only a desire to please can render them worthy) my utmost wish in the attempt is gratified.

I flatter myself the long delay of this publication, occasioned by unavoidable interventions, they will candidly excuse, as no intrusion or neglect was, nor ever will be intended,

By their most oblig'd,

Humble Servant,

ELIZABETH SMITH.

ISRAEL:

A POEM.

BOOK I.

LONG Israel's seed beneath heav'n's fav'ring hand,
In peace possess'd Goshan's distinguish'd land,
Their flocks and herds with daily increase saw,
And temporal treasures in abundance flow.
Thro' circling time, as age to age gave place,
Great and more numerous grew the Hebrew race;
'Mongst whom a zeal for Abram's God decreas'd,
And heav'n's direct communications ceas'd;
O'er Egypt's luxuries their fancies dream'd,
Whose idol deities their homage claim'd;
Not one warm wish did their desires expand,
At ease in Goshan, after Canaan's land.

Kings in succession rose to Egypt's throne,
 To whom their predecessors were unknown ;
 At length a Pharaoh rul'd with iron rod,
 (By the permission of their father's God)
 In royal robes of majesty array'd,
 He as a Deity himself survey'd ;
 His court conven'd, to make his purpose known,
 Imperiously he mounts his lofty throne,
 Wielding, to utter out his dire command
 The mallet sceptre in his awful hand ;
 A gorgeous diadem his temples prest,
 And lion fury swell'd his raging breast ;
 Those reptile Israelites offend my sight,
 And break each grateful flumber of the night ;
 Here, by my omnipotent self, I swear
 To make their burthens more than man can bear,
 In heavy labours shall their days be spent,
 And nights forbid an hour of soft content ;

Being

Being by such irksome grievous tasks oppress'd,
 As will refuse an interval of rest:
 The youths and fathers I'll detain for slaves
 And give their infants to the greedy waves,
 My sov'reign order's henceforth to destroy
 By some sure means, each new born Hebrew boy,
 Throughout all parts of this fam'd realm of mine,
 Where they so long have bask'd in fortune's shine,
 With trumpets, shawns, and symboles loud proclaim
 This royal mandate, under Pharaoh's name;
 And guard them, lest some foe to Egypt's land,
 Aid their escape from my imperial hand.

Amram the Levite, in his prime of life,
 Had taken virtuous Jochebed to wife,
 Whose soul was gentle, tranquil every thought,
 Her bosom with maternal passions fraught;
 Two lovely offsprings did her cares employ,
 A cheerful girl, and artless prating boy,

Whose pleasing actions sorrow oft beguiled,
 And, tho' in bondage, fond affection smil'd;
 'Till pregnancy again! alarm'd her fears,
 When Pharaoh's cruel edict reach'd her ears;
 She in her arms, her little Aaron took,
 And with a sigh did on her daughter look
 "What thanks to the presiding gods are due
 From a fond mother for her bliss in you
 My children, whom no ruffians knife did slay,
 Nor greedy waters claim you for their prey;
 But the dear child (if male) within my womb
 Must fall a victim to a tyrant's doom;
 Who, e'er he views the light, or draws his breath,
 Barbarian power consigns to instant death;
 Whilst you, as years increase, must wear the chain
 Of slavery, and in cruel bonds remain."
 When time produc'd her offspring to her arms
 Another boy, with variegated charms,

The trembling mother's ardent eyes survey'd
 Around whose face a thousand graces play'd;
 When she no longer could his birth conceal
 And fear'd each day the secret wou'd reveal;
 A curious ark, contriv'd with utmost care,
 Of bulrushes entwin'd she did prepare,
 And at the margin of the flowing tide,
 Amongst the flags, by Nile's transparent side,
 Laid him, where Israel's God as safe from harm
 Preserv'd the babe, as in a mother's arms;
 Her daughter, sharer of her every thought,
 To watch the ark the weeping mother brought,
 Untaught in the true source of peace and love,
 She thus address'd their fancied powers above:
 "Here by my infant on my bended knee,
 Attend my suit some listening deity!
 Shield innocence from an untimely grave,
 (For sure the mighty Gods have power to save)

In mercy to our woes assert your right,
 And shew this king his impotence of might :
 Hear injur'd Israel's universal groan,
 Hurl the proud tyrant from his gaudy throne ;
 Let plagues and wretchedness surround his doors,
 And devastation spoil his glittering stores,
 His realm depopulate, his first-born slay,
 And make his grave some wide extended sea,
 His days cut short, his hated name deface,
 And be this curse inherent on his race !
 Now my sweet babe, to thee a long farewell,
 What tongue can a fond mother's feelings tell,
 May that blest power propitious to my prayer,
 Who gave thee life, make that dear life his care ;
 Stay gentle maid, and if a bustling wave
 Embogue my infant in this wat'ry grave,
 O ! tell it not, but sooth my soul and say,
 Some pitying God has borne the ark away.
 And

And to his blissful region ta'en my boy

To live for ever in immortal joy."

She then with trembling steps, and anxious fears

Retreated, bath'd in floods of briney tears,

But what o'er-ruling? what resistless power?

The princess brought at this important hour?

And with her virgin train, her steps did guide

To bathe her in the cooling chrystal tide;

Nought sure cou'd kindle soft affection's flame,

And tender pity in the royal dame,

T' adopt an infant of the Hebrew line

But the strong impulse of a power divine:

The little vessel flood within her view,

Which from the flags her waiting virgins drew;

The infant's harmless looks, and feeble cries

Affail'd her soul with pity and surprize,

By gentle sympathy and love impress,

She fondly clasp'd him to her heaving breast;

"Sweet

" Sweet source of some unhappy mother's fear,
 I'll be the succour of thy helpless year;
 Ill-fated matrons, hapless Hebrew wives,
 Forc'd thus to yield the comforts of your lives
 To death and dangers, whence what woes must spring?
 Inhuman father! cruel barbarous king!"
 The watchful sister pleas'd, this scene survey'd;
 Then reverently approach'd the royal maid
 " All hail fair Princess of the glowing east,
 Maturing soil of virtue in the breast,
 Such graces in your generous bosom shine,
 As speak them kindled at a torch divine,
 Innocence helpless, in the blest abodes,
 As in your soul is made the care of Gods,
 To them and you in grateful strains be strung;
 Fair excellence, each Israelitish tongue,
 If 'tis thy will, an Hebrew matron fair
 Shall nurse this infant with the tenderest care,

By

By kind permission of the imperial dame,
 To Jochebed th' exiling damsel came,
 " Dear honor'd mother! hence from weeping cease,
 Nor let a sigh molest your future peace,
 From dangers Egypt's Princess, charming maid,
 The casket drew where you your jewel laid;
 O! had you seen with what amazing grace
 Her beauty heighten'd in her lovely face,
 And added lustre to her native charms,
 When she embrac'd your infant in her arms;
 She's sure descended from the realms on high,
 Not Pharaoh's, but the offspring of the sky!
 Hasten with me, receive her mild commands,
 Which will consign your child unto your hands,
 For her to nurse your own dear smiling boy,
 Delightful task! O grateful sweet employ!
 The mother's speaking eyes her joy confess,
 And all the parent bounded in her breast,

When the young Princes said, "unto your care,
 I now commit the crown of Egypt's heir.
 By me adopted, he in future may,
 The ruling sceptre of this empire sway;
 To rescue from the floods I here was drawn
 By the kind Gods, and make the babe my own,
 Whence Moses is his name, discharge your part
 And your reward shall equal your desert."
 Th' Almighty's bowels now o'er Israel yearn'd,
 Who daily bread beneath hard burthens earn'd,
 Without distinction, all endur'd the stroke,
 And bow'd the neck to the Egyptian yoke;
 By rigid task-masters, from slumbers torn,
 Awak'd to labour with the rising morn,
 And in hard slavery of mire and clay
 Condemn'd to toil throughout the tedious day;
 Amram whole hands no implements had took
 Beside the tuncful reed, and shepherd's crook,

How

G

Nor

Nor been innur'd to labour, toil, nor pain,
 Before malignant Pharaoh's gloomy reign :
 Said, " Jochebed, my much lov'd virtuous wife,
 Kind sharer of the weal and woe of life,
 How alter'd is our state, since on the plain
 We sweetly mix'd amongst the Arcadian strain
 Of nymphs and swains to watch our fleecy care,
 Or did to cooling shady bowers repair ?
 Whilst at each eve within our mild retreat,
 Domestic pleasures made our bliss compleat ;
 Which an inhuman monarch has annoy'd,
 And every comfort of our lives destroy'd."
 " My Amram (she reply'd) I feel the dart
 Of all thy sorrows in my bleeding heart,
 Yet wou'd from fruitless murm'ring forbear,
 Lest I provoke the heav'ns by my despair,
 Pharaoh to guide his power more to extend,
 And tear from me my dearest best lov'd friends ;

How cou'd my heart support the fatal blow
 That stop'd the source whence all my pleasures flow?
 To save thy life, or thy repose secure
 What cou'd I not perform? what not endure
 For him, within whose generous bosom dwells
 Each virtue that in human kind excels?
 But O my Amram, heaven inspires the thought,
 We've greatly err'd, and mutual is our fault:
 For tho' chastis'd by the eternal's rod,
 We've never sought aright our father's God,
 The history of our ancestors declares
 What mighty works he did for them and theirs,
 Then let us in a fervent prayer combine,
 And ardently implore his aid divine:
 " O ! thou great power who govern'st all the rest,
 Of all the Gods, the highest and the best,
 For our forefather's sakes, receive our prayer,
 And make their suffering race thy instant care.

From cruel bonds and slavery set us free,
 And we'll devote our children unto thee.
 Moses grew up with gentleness of mind,
 And Aaron grac'd with eloquence refin'd.
 One with his Father slavery endur'd,
 The other, royal Pharaoh's court matur'd
 Until he fled from his avenging hand
 For refuge to the Midianish land,
 Attending Jethro's flock, the path he took
 To Horeb's mount, the sacred mount of God,
 Where he a burning bush most wondrous saw
 Whose blazing glory struck his mind with awe.
 The torrid central flame, condemn'd with flies,
 And boughs still verdant fill'd him with surprise.
 Amidst the flame (whence nature sided round)
 Th' Almighty's voice did Moses sound.

With reverence profound and trembling fears,
 Moses reply'd, speak Lord, thy servants hears
 " Moses fear not, nor yet approach too nigh
 The dazz'ling presence of the Lord most high
 Put off thy shoes, observe my strict command,
 Holy's the ground whereon thou now dost stand,
 Your ancestors did my dominion own,
 Isaac and Jacob have my wonders known,
 And in due time I'll ratify indeed
 Th' extensive promise made to Abraham's seed,
 Wherein all tongues and nations shall be blest,
 And every faithful Israelite find rest.
 Mean while a type of this mysterious grace
 I'll give, by aiding Israel's natural race,
 And thus at large perform, what heretofore
 I faithfully unto the father's swore;
 The afflicted Hebrews I cannot withstand,
 So grievously oppress'd in Egypt's land:

Their general sorrows, and united cries
 Hath rent the air, and pierc'd the mourning skies,
 Commission'd angels bring their sad report
 With pity wing'd, to heav'n's resplendent court,
 Whence I've descended from my radiant throne
 To make to you my sov'reign purpose known.
 I will redeem them from proud Pharaoh's hand,
 Conduct them forth of that barbarian land,
 And on them one more excellent bestow
 Where rivers fair of milk and honey flow.
 Know favour'd Moses, I commission thee
 From Pharaoh's hand to set my people free.
 The God whom Abraham trusted, Jacob saw,
 And Isaac serv'd with holy zeal and awe,
 In Arabs wilderness demands three days
 From Israel's seed, obedience, prayer, and praise:
 Them for mine own inheritance I've chose
 And let no arm of flesh my will oppose.

Their

Straight

Straight thine absolute commands receive
 In Pharaoh's court; and I'll be with thee there;
 Say to the Hebrews thou art sent by me,
 Who, for the Father's sakes will set them free,
 And bring them to a good and spacious land,
 Which a mix'd multitude does now command.
 Moses thus long God's awful voice to hear,
 Stood motionless, and hid his face for fear,
 Then trembling said, " Lord spare a feeble worm,
 Nor send thine anger in a furious storm
 Upon the creature of thy Sov'reign will
 Who'd faithfully thy great commands fulfill
 But when the Hebrew's ask from whom I came,
 What must I call the God of Israel's name?
 " Tell 'em the omnipotent God of heaven,
 The great I AM, hath your commission given;
 Who, for existence on myself depend,
 Had no beginning, nor can never end;

My attributes to know, or power to seal;
 Surpasses far the reach of mortal man;
 Whate'er concerns his state I will reveal,
 Presumption peeps in what I wou'd conceal;
 Whence from researches darkness still shall flow,
 In what man's wisdom ne'er was found to know
 Creations beautiful fabric to explore,
 The various turns of providence adore;
 Skins of my vesture, let the creature trace,
 Nor strive to gaze at my diviner face;
 'Till death shall bid th' immortal spirit rise,
 And nature's veil drop from it's wond'ring eyes;
 To Isaac's elders say, thus saith the Lord;
 I will incline them to receive thy word,
 And under my secure protection take,
 The unpolluted Hebrews for my people take,
 As I before did to the Father's swear
 To make their offspring my peculiar care,

Take them with thee, and unto Pharaoh's ear,
 My high and positive injunctions bear;
 Altho' his proud tyrannic heart I know
 Will haughtily refuse to let you go,
 Which I permit, to make th Egyptian view
 The mighty wonders Israel's God can do:
 My magazine of plagues I will command
 To pour its stores on that audacious land,
 And under nuisance and contagion bring
 The dunghill beggar, and high crested king:
 Who, when perplex'd with every kind of woe,
 Will yield at last to let my people go:
 But e'er you leave this scene of bonds and toil,
 You shall avail you of their glittering spoil;
 Their raiment rich, and gems of dazzling glare
 Your sons and daughters shall in triumph wear;
 I'll give your women favour in their eyes,
 And they shall bear away the brilliant prize;

So shall you their intrinsic stores command,
 And not go empty from th' inhuman land."
 " Will yet again the God of earth and sky,
 Permit unworthy mortal to reply ?
 Such ignorance absorbs the Hebrew race,
 They'll not believe I've seen th' Almighty's face ;
 The powers of rhetoric can ne'er aright
 Describe thy glory, and declare thy might,
 How then shall I, not with that gift endow'd,
 Proclaim thy wonders to a sceptic crowd ?
 " These my commands unto thy brother teach,
 Adorn'd with every ornament of speech,
 His flowing eloquence might charm the ears,
 Of angels, bending from th' harmonious spheres ;
 Aaron with grace and energy shall plead,
 And Israel's God disclose to Israel's seed,
 Thy constant agent to my people he,
 And thou to him instead of God shalt be,

More to convince, that simple rod shall join
 To manifest thy missionage divine
 Cast on the ground it shall a serpent be,
 Again a rod as soon as touch'd by thee
 Into thy bosom thrust thy spotless hand,
 And in my name a leprosy command;
 Plac'd there again, in faith upon the Lord,
 It shall appear immediately restor'd:
 If with these miracles they dare contend,
 Nor on their demonstration straight depend,
 Thou shalt pour water from the chrysal flood,
 On the dry land, and stain it's banks with blood
 Return to Egypt whence you lately fled,
 Pharaoh and those who sought thy life are dead
 His successor of proud and stubborn heart,
 Reigns the late Pharaoh's cruel counter-part;
 Him will I harden in the trying hour,
 To scourge his crimes, and manifest my power

“What

Shew

Shew to this King the wonders of your rod;
 Tell him, thus saith Jehovah, Israel's God;
 My first born son is faithful Jacob's race,
 Whom I command to seek his father's face;
 If Pharaoh dares to intercept his way,
 I will his son, his first-born offspring slay:
 Thy faithful brother Aaron now draws near,
 Who comes to greet thee with a heart sincere.

Moses told Aaron all the words of God,
 And miracles appointed by his rod.
 Which Aaron to the Hebrews did record,
 Who bow'd the head, believ'd and prais'd the Lord.
 Then to the King with Moses he repair'd
 And Heav'n's commission candidly declar'd.
 " Thy servants Pharaoh this commandment brings
 From the great God of Gods, and King of Kings.

"What God is he? the haughty monarch cry'd,

Who dares with Pharaoh Egypt's rule divide?

I know him not nor e'er desire to know,

Nor will I let the reptile Hebrews go."

"Most high! Eternal! of unequal'd fame,

Aaron reply'd, Jehovah is his name!

He call'd from Chaos the frail creature man,

(Himself existing e'er all worlds began:)

The angels whose celestial plumes disgrace

The vainest pageant of our mortal race:

Thro' heav'n's extent fly swift at his command,

Before him bow, and own his forming hand:

With stars he spangled o'er the lucid sky,

His finger fix'd the gorgeous sun on high,

And plac'd fair lunar regent of the night,

To cheer the earth with her serenest light:

He bid the zephyrs play, rude boreas blow,

And caus'd the waves to rage, and streams to flow."

"Let

"Let him reign on, I'll not his empire own,
 Invade his realms, nor claim his fancied throne,
 But yet the Hebrews and their God shall see,
 In his defiance, they shall worship me.
 Canst thou, said Aaron, daringly withstand,
 The awful power of his avenging hand?
 Who bid us say to thee, "thus saith the Lord,
 I'll Pharaoh's cruelty with plagues reward,
 On man and beast alike, on great and small,
 Throughout his realm my judgments shall fall,
 And visit them with every kind of woe,
 If he refuse to let my people go.
 Tremendous thunders shall their souls affright,
 And lightnings fierce earth's chosen produce slay,
 Torrents of rain and hail I will command,
 And elemental fire to blast their land,
 Of murrain, boils, and blains, and every kind,
 Their fertile plains in one wide ruin bind,
 And cause the waves of the sea to rise,
 And sweep the land with their devouring tide."

The

The tender herbage, and just opening flower,
 Swarms of enormous locusts shall devour,
 I will refuse their morn'ning gleam of light,
 And change their noon-day into deepest night:
 Their blais't water's kind refreshing flood
 Turn to a whirl of spouts of crimson blood,
 Insects and nauseous vermin shall abound,
 Darken the air and cover all the ground;
 Destruction then shall wet her sharpest dart,
 If still obstinate proves this monarch's heart,
 Who in one night, of man and beast shall slay,
 And sweep the first-born of the land away:
 A carnal house, make each Egyptian's home,
 But near my people shall no evil come.

Here Pharaoh rose with an indignant air,
 Glancing disdain on the commission'd pair,
 And swore by all the glories of his throne,
 No God in Egypt could but him alone.

Hence

Hence on the Hebrews heavier tasks he laid,
 And unexample'd tyranny display'd,
 Obliging them by his despotic law
 Their labours to increase and seek their straw;
 They with fatigue oppress'd, and worn with woe,
 In murmurs 'gainst their chosen leader rose,
 Saying, no God had his appointment given,
 For mercy surely must reside in heav'n,
 And had Jehovah favour'd them and their's,
 He'd not have added to their toils and cares.

Moses unto his God with holy zeal,
 And pious fervour made his meek appeal;
 Divine attention readily inclin'd
 To each petition of his faithful mind:

"Stretch out thy rod before this tyrant's eyes,
 And call down vengeance from the wrath-clad skies;
 Whence plagues in swift succession shall descend,
 'Till Pharaoh's reign and Israel's bondage end:

Bid the bright luminaries all retire,
 And æther stream with hail and livid fire :
 Each gentle gale, and fanning breeze withdraw,
 Whilst tempests howl, and circling whirlwinds blow;
 To faithful Jacob's tim'rous race proclaim
 Speedy redemption in Jehovah's name :
 Who'll bring them out from the Egyptian land
 With power supreme, and an Almighty hand :
 I for my people wonders will perform,
 Who tread the sea, and ride upon the storm ;
 They and their seed the plenteous land shall have,
 By grant divine, I to the father's gave."
 Moses with confidence at heav'n's command,
 His rod extended over sea and land :
 The raging elements, with terrors arm'd,
 The King's intrepid bosom strait alarm'd ;
 No rest he found for his majestic head,
 Whilst nauseous vermin fill'd the royal bed,

And

And vainly on his splendid couch reclin'd,
 When peals of thunder shook his daring mind;
 His parched tongue with thirst tormenting burn'd,
 Whilst into blood the cooling streams were turn'd,
 And ardently he wish'd one ray of light,
 Wrap'd up in shades of doleful ceaseless night:
 His stubborn heart recoil'd with fear and dread,
 As woe on woe came bursting o'er his head;
 Whence in the height of the corrective hour,
 He own'd a God superior to his power:
 And under sundry judgments sore oppress'd,
 To Moses frequently his suit address'd,
 For respite, from the then wide spreading woe,
 And he would let the captive people go.
 Moses with heav'n for Egypt oft prevail'd,
 And still as oft the royal promise fail'd:
 Till thus again the Lord of glory spoke,
 " My arm prepares the last decisive stroke:

And
 Jacob

The angel of destruction his command, now giv'd
 To pass the night o'er cruel Pharaoh's land;
 Whence all the first-born shall resign their breath;
 And man and beast partake the general death;
 But Israel's houses shall escape the rod,
 That they may know I am the Lord their God:
 At deep of night death's keen envenom'd dart,
 Was pointed at each destin'd victim's heart;
 Of man and beast did every first-born die,
 Whence Egypt rung with one united cry;
 Pharaoh at midnight from his downy bed
 Trembling arose, alarm'd with solemn dread,
 Of power supreme, which he'd so long defy'd,
 And freedom to his chosen race deny'd;
 To them he sent his sovereign decree,
 To serve their God, they were that instant free;
 Their flocks and herds were all at their command,
 To hasten from his persecuted land:

The angel of the Lord
 In transports, from a place of soils and woes
 From bondage rescued, and afflictions free
 And man's hand in the hands of his God

But Israel's house shall escape the rod,
 That they may know I am the Lord their God :

END OF THE FIRST BOOK.

Alas, of night, when the sun is down,
 Was pointed out to the eyes of the Lord

Old man and beard, but every where
 When Egypt's king, the Lord's anointed

Pharaoh, as the Lord's anointed,
 Trembling, and the Lord's anointed

Of the Lord's anointed, which held so long
 And needed to his chosen race deny'd :

To them he sent his foreign decree
 Their flock and herd were all at their command

To hasten from his persecuted land
 Laden



31
The gorgeous walls with gold were all inlaid
Where? on her top, at the royal maid

Willst joy her sweet O give M.
The fondly clasp'd me to her gen'rous breast

And tenderly enjoy'd me to prepare
Maternal love, and to share

B O O K II.

MOSES and Aaron, whilst they led the way,
To the reign'd delights, and pomp of courts;

With converse kind beguil'd the tedious day,
Saying pleasures should for me her bow is display

Said Aaron "Oft I've ponder'd in my mind
To wake the morn, and feel each new-born day

What powerful impulse did thy passions bind,
As fancy told I might repair to love

To turn from splendour, and to kindly share,
To the gay banquet, or refreshing grove;

The heavy burthens we were doom'd to bear;
From princely bowers to stomatic bowers

So early from our humble cell remov'd,
Sweet music should await my evening hours

And by a Princess tenderly belov'd?"
Amidst soft symphonies to sleep recline

"'Twas sov'reign mercy, heaven's divine controul,
And all the glories of the East be mine

Check'd the first onsets of my glowing soul
That every minor Egypt's court around

For regal honours, when to court I came,
Of arts polite and learning most profound

They introduc'd me to the princely dame:
Should

The

The gorg'ous walls with gold were all inlaid,
 Where, on her sofa sat the royal maid;
 Whilst joy her sweet attractive eyes confess,
 She fondly clasp'd me to her gen'rous breast,
 And tenderly enjoin'd me to prepare
 Maternal love, and prospects new to share,
 That chang'd my plebeian roof, and rural sports,
 To the refin'd delights, and pomp of courts;
 Saying pleasures shou'd for me her pow'rs display
 To wake the morn, and hail each new-born day;
 As fancy rul'd, I might repair or rove
 To the gay banquet, or refreshing grove;
 From princely sports to aromatic bow'rs,
 Sweet music shou'd await my evening hours;
 Amidst soft symphonies to sleep recline,
 And all the glories of the East be mine,
 That every tutor Egypt's court around,
 Of arts polite, and learning most profound,
 Should

Shou'd join to polish, with the utmost care,
 Her favour'd son, the crown's successive heir,
 And all the beauties of the empire vie
 To please my taste, and captivate my eye.
 Thus in the bask of giddy fortune's ray,
 Fled the vain hours of heedless youth away,
 By harmony invited to repose,
 And every sun to new delights arose;
 Yet oft my heart confess'd the urgent sway
 Of nature, and recall'd each happy day,
 When in fair Jochebed's serene retreat
 Peaceful I dwelt, nor aim'd at being great;
 Secur'd from fears, and shelter'd from alarms
 In the kind circle of her snowy arms:
 Her various graces to my mind did rise,
 How modest was her mien? how soft her eyes?
 Which bent on Amram with a placid smile,
 At eve rewarded all his daily toil:

Unsway'd

Unsway'd by novelty, unflam'd with pride,
 She prudence took, and virtue for her guide,
 And made the cares and pleasures of her life,
 The tender mother, and unerring wife.
 Our father chearful from his toil return'd,
 Whose heart for her with equal ardour burn'd;
 To guide our opening minds in virtue's way,
 He made the task of every setting day,
 And gently forc'd our glowing souls to feel
 Abraham's fam'd faith, and holy Jacob's zeal;
 By whom Jehovah's promise first was gam'd,
 And to their seed for ever ascertain'd:
 This privilege forbade my ripening breast
 In splendid sensuality to rest,
 Thence, did the empty glare of courts forsake
 And with the suff'ring sons of heav'n partake.
 No guilt my Aaron drove me from your land,
 Blood unoffending ne'er distain'd this hand:

A son of Mirak's house I saw engage
 Unequal combat with o'er-pow'ring rage;
 Urg'd by compassion, to his aid I flew,
 And in his life's defence, th' Egyptian flew;
 (Malice, which does her ready tribute bring)
 Falsly display'd this action to the king;
 Great men assembl'd, in his presence stood
 Requiring the atonement of my blood;
 Saying, those honours I did then enjoy,
 Were ill-conferr'd on an adopted boy,
 Whose pride would shortly no superior own,
 But crush the subject and defy the throne.
 Hence Pharaoh's kindness into fury turn'd;
 With vengeance his indignant bosom burn'd;
 When I resolv'd to quit the treach'rous ground,
 Of gaudy pomp, where no true bliss is found,
 And with the peace of heav'n endow'd, remain
 A simple shepherd on some distant plain:

But

But my recoiling soul, tho' dead to fame,
 Glow'd for the Princess with a fervent flame,
 Whence gratitude and love did me impel
 To take of her a tender long farewell;
 That kind protectress, who first deign'd to save,
 And draw me, helpless, from a wat'ry grave
 Nurs'd by her care, by her affection fed,
 And to the mount of regal honours led;
 Her person amiable, her sense refin'd,
 Her manners gentle, generous her mind,
 Where dignity and virtue did combine,
 And ev'ry wish, and tender thought was mine:
 Cou'd I without a pang then cease to prove
 The privilege of her unquall'd love?
 Which by perpetual intercourse had bound
 Its purest chain my vanquish'd heart around;
 But heav'n contending bad me quit the snare
 Of grandeur, and to Midian straight repair:

For offices, far distant, were design'd
 Than Egypt's rule to occupy my mind.
 I went entreating the eternal's aid,
 To bid adieu to the accomplish'd maid;
 She rais'd her charming eyes, approaching near,
 Whose lustre darted thro' the bursting tear,
 Which o'er her cheeks appear'd like dew on flow'rs,
 Or sun-beams blending with refreshing showers;
 With all the fortitude I cou'd command,
 I knelt, and gently held her lovely hand.
 "Behold me royal lady prostrate bend,
 Protectress, guardian, mother, sister, friend,
 Or if there be an epithet more dear
 Indelibly it is engrav'n here;
 This grateful heart your image shall retain,
 Whilst mortal life, and memory remain;
 And when assail'd by the cold hand of death
 I'll sigh your name out in my latest breath:

And

F 3

By

By malice exil'd now from court I fly,
 But heav'n will guard you with a watchful eye,
 And all your kindneses to me repay,
 With interest, in the retribution day."
 "How happy am I? she reply'd to find,
 Your heart so constant, so serene your mind;
 Be henceforth from the fears of danger free,
 And place your confidence alone in me;
 Thy fate whatever, I cou'd pleas'd partake,
 But not survive if thou the court forsake;
 Talk not of leaving this extensive realm,
 I'll still preserve, and fix you at the helm:
 To quell the rage of thy malignant foes
 'Twixt thee and death my breast I'll interpose,
 Nor shalt thou feel its extirpating dart,
 But thro' the passage of this bleeding heart:
 My father is impetuous and severe,
 But in cool moments will right reason hear,

And load thee with more honours, when he finds
 Thy worth alone has fir'd their envious minds ;
 He long has lov'd thee, and his crown design'd,
 At his demise, those beauteous brows to bind,
 Whose services not sue, but do demand
 (Had he) a thousand crowns at Pharaoh's hand ;
 Preserver of his realm ! to drive thee hence
 Must give the congregated Gods offence :
 O stay my Moses, let me for thee plead,
 A kneeling darling surely must succeed
 With a fond Father, tho' he fills a throne,
 Who has no other child but her alone ;
 And thou'd I fail thy pardon to obtain,
 Where I ne'er yet sollicit in vain,
 Myself will baffle the united powers
 Of base, opposing men, and Gods like ours ;
 I will contrive for thee a safe retreat,
 That shall their utmost vigilance defeat ;

Unknown to all, but those employ'd to find
 New entertainment hourly for thy mind
 Throughout the day, at night their vigils keep,
 Around thee whilst absorb'd in balmy sleep;
 Thus be secur'd, till thou the throne ascend
 And all thy terrors in dominion end.
 My royal father soon must yield to fate,
 He draws near human nature's utmost date,
 Then shalt thou rise, Egyptian idols fall,
 And Israel's God be deified by all,
 To him alone, our adorations giv'n,
 That powerful God thou hast describ'd in heav'n.
 The Hebrews shall their liberty regain,
 And bask beneath the sun-shine of thy reign;
 Th' Egyptians all thy lenient sway confess,
 And ev'ry tongue my god-like Moses bless.
 Thou like the morning star shalt break divine,
 I by thy side, with salter lustre shine.

Unknown

Meekly

Meekly submissive to thy ruling hand,
 Obedient to the most minute command,
 With joy behold a diadem surround
 Those temples, late a wreath of laurel crown'd;
 Which was receiv'd with unassuming air,
 As Mars intrepid, as Adonis fair,
 Compos'd and firm thou didst appear, 'midst loud
 Shouts and applauses of the rescu'd crowd;
 The victors fame to Egypt's bound'ries rung,
 The conq'ror's name dwelt on each infant tongue;
 Tho' afterwards, with infamy they brav'd
 The Hero who their sinking country sav'd;
 But soon must lowly bend the abject knee,
 And lift the supplicating eye to thee."

I must confess my ears enraptur'd hung
 On the sweet sounds of her melodious tongue;
 She look'd, she mov'd, she spoke with so much grace,
 Such soft enchantment hover'd round her face;

Was

Was it your case, what must your feelings be,
 You wou'd have ponder'd, and ador'd like me,
 " Madam, I said, ambition cannot find
 A passage to my un aspiring mind,
 What I have done my duty did demand,
 Success descended from Jehovah's hand,
 Who points the jav'lin, rolls the blazing orb,
 And shields the conqueror in the rage of war,
 To his victorious arm let Egypt raise
 The illustrious palm of gratitude and praise,
 To me no sweet internal pleasure flows,
 From gazing crowds, and popular applause,
 Nor can renown excite desires to wield
 Weapons of death in the wide hostile field,
 The glaring splendour of an Eastern throne,
 Unto my humbler wish is late unknown,
 My steps incline not to the paths of fame,
 On brazen pillars to enroll my name.

W

G

Where

Where temporal glory's scorching rays pervade,
 But the calm walk of life's more tranquil shade:
 Hence with the sacred impulse I comply
 Of heav'n, which bids me crowns and grandeur fly:
 Yet think not worthiest of the female race,
 So calous is my heart, my mind so base;
 But had th' all-wise disposer of my birth
 Ordain'd me monarch of the peopl'd earth,
 And made the nations of the world my own,
 On you I wou'd confer my crown and throne;
 Whence orphans wou'd partake your pious care,
 The old and helpless in your bounty share,
 And all the injur'd and afflicted prove
 Your tender pity and unbounded love;
 There wou'd you rule with steady hand, and shine
 A soul celestial, in a human shrine,
 And from your candid, pure, ingenuous mind,
 Hand virtue's pattern down to all mankind

Then

Then might I the pure zeal and fervor prove,
 Of my sincere disinterested love;
 But heav'n, (that makes your cup of ease overflow,)
 Calls me to toils and pilgrimage below,
 Which I embrace, and even you resign,
 To serve, and call the God of Abram mine;
 Before whose throne I'll daily pour my prayer
 You to preserve unprecedented fair.
 Still may you by woes point unpierc'd remain,
 Nor drop one thought on me to give you pain;
 And when the lights and shades of life are o'er,
 And earth's distinctions separate no more;
 May we on yonder azure blissful plain
 Unite, where joy, and endless pleasure's reign.
 She paus'd, then calmly said, Must I forego
 My only source of happiness below?
 Shall I no more behold that beautiful face?
 Adorn'd with every soft, yet manly grace,

Nor e'er in some kind future moment hear
 Thy voice like music charm my ravish'd ear,
 Must ne'er those speaking eyes, that heav'nly smile,
 Again my heart enchant, and cares beguile?
 Thy transient absence I no more shall moan,
 Nor see my Hero crown'd at his return;
 For go, you say 'tis the divine command,
 Your virtues bear from this ungrateful land;
 Dear object of my early hopes and fears,
 The sweet delight of my maturer years,
 My only joy, when I'm depriv'd of thee?
 What toys are kingdoms, crowns, and courts to me?
 To some lone desert cell I will retire,
 And raise my views and contemplations higher
 Unto thy God devote my sacred love,
 And strive to meet thee in the realms above.
 Here passions strong and resignation join'd,
 Meekness, and magnanimity of mind,

My soul dissolv'd, and as I strove to speak

The word farewell, I thought my heart wou'd break.

Long duty struggl'd with contending pains,

Whilst with the flocks I wander'd o'er the plains ;

'Till softening time did her remembrance paint,

As of a long lov'd dear departed saint,

Who I must honour, but behold no more,

'Till death conjoin'd us on th' eternal shore ;

Thus was the fervor of my soul allay'd,

E'er I espous'd the Midianitish maid :

Our father's precepts, and incitements kind,

Often recurr'd to my reflecting mind,

When he, to animate our virtues, told

Instructive tales of holy men of old,

Who subjected their every wish to still

Subordination to heav'n's sov'reign will :

His strains pathetic, and mild accents stole
 Into the heart, and made the yielding soul
 O'erflow in undissembled tears, whilst we
 Hung on his neck, or prattled round his knee.
 For infant Isaac, sympathy arose,
 E'er we could feel for hoary Abraham's woes,
 When the divine command 'gainst nature run,
 That he must sacrifice his darling son;
 Great griefs his fond paternal heart assail'd,
 Yet o'er them all his wondrous faith prevail'd:
 He said, "That power into whose hands I trust
 My Isaac, can reanimate his dust,
 And call to form again that beauteous frame,
 From the keen dagger and devouring flame;
 But how shall I to Sarah's gentle ear,
 This harsh decree of the Almighty bear?
 How say this arm must guide the pointed knife,
 This hand arrest her blooming Isaac's life?

Will

Will all the happy years we've fondly spent
 In sweet affection, and serene content,
 In her soft breast for Abram intercede,
 By whose dire stroke her much lov'd child must bleed?
 O! thou great God, who this command hast giv'n,
 Dispatch some bright ambassador from heav'n,
 Commission'd in her bosom to instill,
 Calm resignation to thy sovereign will;
 Her weakness heal, and dry those tears that flow,
 At this impending, unexpected blow."
 He fondly clasp'd unto his ardent breast,
 And thus the partner of his heart address:
 "Since that blest day, when all thy matchless charms
 Were first committed to those faithful arms,
 (Which held each beauty of the face, combin'd
 With every grace and virtue of the mind.)
 My lovely Sarah's constant heart was mine,
 And ev'ry thought and wish of Abram's thine;

No discontent our murmurs did annoy,
 Our days succeeding with increase of joy,
 Unnumber'd benefits all bounteous heav'n,
 To crown our mutual loves has kindly given;
 But blessings, flowing from the hand divine,
 When he recalls, he bids us not repine;
 We gently sink into the vale of years,
 And earth's fantastic scenery disappears,
 Soon death heav'n's radiant vehicle will bring,
 To shut our eyes on every mortal thing;
 Your will has ever with my will comply'd,
 What I requested Sarah ne'er deny'd;
 Let then submission both our souls inspire,
 To yield to heav'n, what heav'n does now require:
 "Should all the treasures that thy God made thine,
 Be re-demanded I'll with ease resign,
 One wish alone, with ardour swells my breast,
 To be with Isaac, and my Abram blest,

In

In some deserted cot to spend my days,
 With you and him, indulgent heav'n I'll praise,
 Nor at the loss of fortune's goods complain,
 So those dear treasures of my soul remain:
 My lord I love not only, but adore,
 And will obey, what wou'd my Abram more?
 " O ! thou rare precedent of nuptial love !
 Support her all ye glitt'ring train above !
 Arm thee with fortitude whilst I relate
 Isaac, thy darling Isaac's early fate.
 Know then, the God of earth and heav'n demands
 This bleeding sacrifice at Abram's hands :
 Upon a mountain, at the break of day,
 'Tis his commandment, and I must obey."
 " Aid me my dearest Abram now to bear
 Of human woes, this, more than woman's share,
 Thy faith sublime conducts thee greatly through,
 Intreat thy God to strengthen Sarah too !

In imitation of thy zealous mind,
 Feign would I to this summons be resign'd;
 But nature's frailty, in declining years,
 O'erwhelms my heart, and drowns my soul in tears;
 Why did I still with such peculiar joy,
 Survey the graces of my smiling boy?
 And with the most exalted pleasure trace
 In his, the lines of my lov'd Abram's face?
 Why did we hail each annual rising morn,
 Th' auspicious hour the lovely child was born?
 Whereon the grove with sweetest music rung?
 It's trees were round with beauteous garlands hung,
 And chearful banquets mark'd those happy days,
 Whose close resounded with Jehovah's praise;
 But why do I my tortur'd mind oppress,
 Comparing past delights with new distress?
 Those tranquil moments will no more return,
 And I for ever must my Isaac mourn.

'Till the falacious dream of life be o'er;
 And we again shall meet to part no more;
 But in sweet union be for ever blest,
 In blissful mansions of eternal rest.

Abram, whose heart with strong affections strove,
 And all the powerful impulses of love,
 Entreated aid from heav'n, to controul
 Each inward gust, and motion of the soul,
 That no revolting thought might intervene,
 'Till he had clos'd the duteous solemn scene.

At dawn he took his darling by the hand
 Unto the mount Jehovah did command;
 The artless child the sacred place survey'd,
 And to his father's God obedience paid:

"Father, we've here the wood and fire he cries,
 But where's the spotless lamb for sacrifice?"

"The lamb my son, by God himself is giv'n,
 Whose incense shall perfume the courts of heav'n;

O ! dost thou not contending nature feel ?
 The unpolluted sacrifice is thee,
 That now the great Creator does demand,
 Slain on this altar, by thy father's hand !
 " No longer hesitate, but strike the blow,
 Cheerful the pledge of Abram's faith I go,
 Be not my fire, by human weakness driv'n,
 To break your league and covenant with heav'n ;
 But O ! with cautious tenderness declare
 This deed of duty to my mother's ear ;
 Tell her at God's command I long'd for death,
 And bless'd you both with my expiring breath.
 Abram reply'd, farewell my blooming love,
 Celestial guards shall wait thy soul above,
 Raising his arm to give the fatal wound,
 He heard the trumpet of an angel sound,
 " Stay Abram ! Dutious Abram ! stay thine hand,
 Hurt not the lad, 'tis the divine command,

And

H 3

To

To try thy heart did this injunction tend ! O
 And thou'lt approv'd thyself Jehovah's friend,
 Who bids thee offer yon entangl'd ram,
 Instead of Isaac, thy untainted lamb
 Thy fame shall to time's utmost date extend,
 Thy prayers into the heav'n of heav'ns ascend,
 And angel guards that croud th' eternal plains,
 Thy name reverberate in celestial strains
 Hear the creator's absolute decree,
 The benediction he bestows on thee
 I swear, because this deed of faith he's done,
 To yield his Isaac ! his beloved son,
 A bleeding sacrifice at my command,
 To make his offspring countless as the sand
 In blessings, hence he shall be blest'd indeed,
 As stars unnumber'd his progressive seed,
 To whom peculiar favour I insure
 By sacred oath, whilst sun and moon endure,

And blessings on all nations shall descend
 Thro' Abram's race, till time and nature end.
 " Thus Abram's faith the promise first obtain'd,
 Its further confirmation Jacob gain'd,
 And we their burthen'd, yet distinguish'd race,
 Now reap the harvest of Jehovah's grace:
 By him we're freed from bondage, pains, and toil,
 And laden with th' Egyptians richest spoil,
 Unto a wealthy land, his great behest,
 He kindly leads his chosen flock to rest;
 Whatever dangers in the way appears,
 Let faith and fortitude dispel our fears:
 He has engag'd to bring us safely through,
 And mighty monarch's for our sakes subdue:
 See how auspiciously he guides our way,
 With fire by night, a favouring cloud by day,
 His shadow and protection still is near,
 Then surely Aaron we have nought to fear.

Here,

Here, from on high, the fount of glory broke, A
 And thus the Hebrew's God to Moses spoke; and T
 " Refresh the people, with fatigue oppress'd; and T
 At Pihahiroth near Baal-zephon rest, nor further all
 From whence an angel shall direct your way, and A
 And guard you to the borders of the sea; now reas
 Whose mingl'd waters shall for you divide; him B
 And rise in walls congeal'd on either side; and A
 Obdurate Pharaoh seeks his overthrow, now a on
 Relenting that he's let my people go, basel vly bix eH
 He now pursues, with a long martial train; W
 To captivate the chosen race again: ol bus dind reI
 But swift destruction shall his crimes reward; eH
 And th' Egyptians know I am the Lord! and migh
 When you behold, high brandish'd from afar, see
 Their glittering arms precede his gilded car; in diW
 The cloudy pillar that did thro' the day wobsd
 To you its salutary shade convey. A vlyl nreT

Here

And

And went before, to your redemption kind,
 Your guardian angel shall remove behind;
 The flame by night shall still it's light disclose,
 The cloud retard the progress of your loes."

In armour clad, now Pharaoh's troops pursue,
 His chariots soon appear in Israel's view,
 Who cry to Moses " Wilt thou find us graves?
 Or plunge us and our infants in the waves?
 Onward to go there is no tract of land,
 Therefore we fall by Pharaoh's vengeful hand;
 Did we not thee with general voice implore
 To serve th' Egyptians as we'd done before?
 Much better with their burthens to comply,
 Than in this dreary wilderness to die."
 Moses with his accustom'd meekness, strove
 To still their murmurs, and their doubts remove,

Assuring

Assuring them the everlasting king,
 Salvation to his favour'd tribes wou'd bring,
 And Egypt's bands that struck their souls with fear,
 From that day forward shou'd no more appear:
 Pharaoh within his royal car secure,
 Thinking his conquest of the Hebrew's sure,
 Amidst six hundred chosen chariots roll'd,
 Disciplin'd troops, commanders brave and bold;
 Whose orders were to drag this reptile train
 Back at their wheels, in bondage to remain;
 'Till they shou'd own there was no other lord,
 Like Egypt's king to punish or reward.
 Again Jehovah unto Moses spoke,
 " This king's iniquities demand the stroke
 Of vengeance, haste, his sanguine hopes defeat,
 Stretch out thy hand, and bid the waves retreat!"
 Over the waters Moses held his rod,
 In the prevailing name of Israel's God,

Whence th' obedient fluid did divide,
 And mount in tow'ring walls on either side;
 By heav'n directed, winds securely rear'd,
 And a dry passage through the deep appear'd.
 Said Pharaoh, (swell'd with confidence elate)
 " Vainly those reptiles strive to shun their fate,
 Whilst at my near approach the billows fly,
 And frighted, leave their low foundations dry;
 Pursue with speed, advance your glitt'ring arms,
 With drums and trumpets sound dread war's alarms,
 And let your hostile ensigns all appear,
 To strike their timid souls with greater fear."
 But this imperious monarch to confound,
 An angel weop his host encompass'd round;
 His powers suppress'd their chariot wheels delay'd,
 His horsemen vanquish'd, and his heart dismay'd;
 Surely there is a God th' Egyptians cry,
 Of pow'r supreme, th' Isr'el ever nigh;

Let

Let us from his resistless presence go,
 E'er he involve us in some mighty woe.
 Moses again, receiving strict command,
 Over the waters held his hallow'd hand,
 And bad their swelling midway surges meet,
 To intercept th' Egyptian host's retreat;
 The waves obey'd in a tempestuous roar
 Which was resounded from th' trembling shore;
 Hail stones and fire smote all the quaking ground,
 Blue lightnings glar'd, and thunders clash'd around,
 Whilst haughty Pharaoh, with his num'rous train,
 Were swallow'd all within the boundless main.
 This wond'rous act, when ransom'd Israel saw,
 With reverence profound, and solemn awe,
 They said, no more we'll doubt Jehovah's word
 Nor thine, thou agent of the living Lord!
 Moses reply'd "These favours from his hand,
 Our utmost strains of gratitude demand;

Let us to him our thankful voices raise,

And magnify his name in sacred lays.

The SONG of MOSES.

WITH saints and seraphims on high

I'll join my grateful song,

To him enthron'd above the sky,

All thanks and praise belong ;

His glorious conquests I have view'd

On this triumphant Day,

The mighty of the earth subdu'd,

Who bore imperial sway :

His people's hearts he did sustain

Whom he vouchsaf'd to keep,

While Pharaoh, and his warlike train,

Lay buried in the deep,

Their

He

He thro' the waters made a way,
And gave divine command
That the wild furies of the sea,

As brazen walls might stand:

THE SONG OF MOSES.

O Lord my strength, my father's God,
As thy salvation's mine,

Unto the nations all abroad

I'll spread thy praise divine.

All thanks and praise belong

The habitation of my soul

I will for thee prepare,

Henceforth each wand'ring with controul,

And rule for ever there.

Thou from our enemies didst save,

Who followed to destroy,

And in the swelling wat'ry grave

Did all their schemes annoy;

Their boasted powers thou didst defy,
 And sat thy people free;
 Amongst the Gods, O Lord most high,
 What God is like to thee?

The praises that to thee belong
 Shall be my constant theme,
 The subject of each future song
 Thou majesty supreme.

Unto our unborn children Lord,
 We will transmit thy fame,
 And future ages shall record
 The honours of thy name.

When with thy chosen people thou
 O holy God appear,
 With woe shall Palestina bow
 The Dukes of Edom fear:
 The

The mighty men of Moab stand

With terror struck aghast,

Till o'er the borders of their land

Thy purchas'd race are past.

For Israel thou'lt by might divine

An heritage prepare,

Where thine eternal glories shine,

And dwell amongst us there.

Over the world, thy sovereign right,

Shalt thou O Lord maintain,

And in thine own transcendent height

For ever, ever reign:

Israel with zealous fervour Moes join'd,

Whilst blessings just receiv'd, impress'd their mind,

But when the least of their requirements fail'd,

The carnal appetites at once prevail'd:

At

At Shur, for want of water they complain'd,
 Moses reproach'd, and providence arraign'd
 (For Marah's waters were imbiter'd driv'n
 To prove their faith and confidence in heav'n)
 Which, when for aid, Moses with ardour sought
 For their relief another wonder wrought
 Causing, a twig, from his devoted hand,
 To sweeten all the waters of the land.
 The Lord said, "Israel no more despair,
 Nor doubt again my providential care,
 Regard my words, my high commands observe,
 Nor henceforth from my rules and statutes swerve
 Unto no other God devote the knee,
 But consecrate your inmost hearts to me;
 No evil tidings then shall reach your ear,
 Nor sickness, pains, nor plagues your tents come near
 Pursue the paths your fam'd fore-father's trod,
 And I, as theirs, will be the Lord your God."

Thanks for new mercies were again express'd
 When they on Elin's verdant plains did rest,
 And under the triumphant shade abode
 Of spreading palms, where limpid waters flow'd
 But soon by hunger to rebellion driv'n
 They broke their specious promises to heav'n
 With universal voice to Moses cry'd,
 "E'er we left Egypt, wou'd to heav'n we'd died!
 What, tho' we labour'd in that goodly land,
 We'd every dainty at our own command,
 But now to this wild labyrinth* are led
 By you to perish for the want of bread;
 Behold us all with hunger sore oppress'd,
 Conceive the yearnings of each parent's breast,
 For what our helpless children undergo,
 Were God amongst us, it cou'd ne'er be so."

K

"Rebellious

Thanks

"Rebellious Israel! which do you explode?
 Our conduct, or the conduct of your God?
 He has with patience long your murrings view'd,
 Yet his kind mercies every day renew'd;
 For you he roll'd the liquid main a tide,
 Thro' woods and deserts was your constant guide,
 Discomfited your tyrannizing foes,
 Watch'd o'er your tents, and guarded your repose,
 Again renew'd his covenant of grace
 To Jacob made, and seal'd it to your race;
 If you on him with dutieus patience trust,
 He'll satisfy your needs, tho' not your lust:
 Of panting after luxuries beware,
 Lest your own table thou'd be made your mare;
 Desires repugnant to the will of heav'n
 Anxiously foug'h, in righteous wrath are giv'n,
 Whence more substantial benefit is gain'd,
 Often, by what's deny'd than what's obtain'd;

Th' eternal God from whom our being came,
 Knows what is best, and fitting for our frame;
 To how we're fed true peace is not confid,
 But to the self approving virtuous mind.
 If Israel for supplies Jehovah trust,
 They'll ever find him to his promise just.
 And those he has redeem'd from Pharaoh's hand,
 He'll convoy safely unto Canaan's land;
 Tho' deeply hidden from the curious eye,
 Sometimes beneath his wond'rous footsteps lie,
 Yet trust my breth'ren on the God of truth,
 Who's been your guide and succour from your youth.
 Aaron and I are but alike his care,
 With you, and equally your hardships share.
 Nay more, we're charg'd to be your guide and aid,
 And have your burthens on our shoulders laid.
 Yet what we've ask'd he graciously hath giv'n,
 And dare we brave the majesty of heav'n?

When his Almighty Father deigns to visit him,
 O how his radiant presence glows on high,
 Because he has, for holy ends, deny'd
 And in his love, our souls to grace
 To leave the reins of power in our command,
 Our existence in his hand,
 Who, out of nothing call'd, and form'd us first,
 Or when he please, can crumble us to dust,
 His are the flocks that graze a thousand hills,
 And fill the corn that each rich valley fills;
 He fix'd the stars in their ethereal frames,
 Their number knows, and calls them by their names;
 He feeds the plaine, and warblers of the air,
 And can you doubt of his paternal care?
 To whom his haire peculiar favour shewn,
 Who calls the world from pole to pole his own,
 We know he brought us on from Egypt's coast,
 And Pharaoh drown'd with all his glorious host.

And

K 3

When

When parch'd with drought, he led us to the brink
 Of crystal streams, where we might freely drink;
 But can he here supply us all with bread,
 And in this wilderness our table spread?
 For want of food frail nature's lamp expires,
 Our exigence immediate help requires:
 Provide us now what may our lives sustain,
 Or send us back to slavery again;
 Rather than in this place be starv'd to death,
 We'll serv'th' Egyptians to our latest breath;
 To shew the pow'r of Jacob's God was great,
 From heav'n he rain'd them angel's bread to eat;
 And tho' they would not on his aid depend,
 Made quails like hail around their tents ascend:
 This plenteous blessing they receiv'd with joy,
 But us'd, their carnal appetites to cloy,
 Whereby the righteous wrath of God they mov'd,
 Who with disease their gluttony reprov'd.

And seal'd death's warrant on that fatal day,
To bear the prime of all their camp away,"
With terror struck, they Moses did implore
T' intreat for them, and they'd revolt no more,
But to the perfect law of God attend,
And on his succour patiently depend :
Mercy prevail'd again with pitying heav'n,
True to the promises to Abram giv'n ;
Which to engage their duty to its law,
Made plenteous streams from flinty rocks to flow,
Unto their leader in their presence spoke,
And over them refulgent glory broke.
" Let Isr'el to no idol bow the knee,
Nor own a shepherd God nor guide, but me,
Above all nations you shall then be blest,
And I will bring you to my promis'd rest ;
With jealous indignation I behold
Your gods of silver and your gods of gold ;

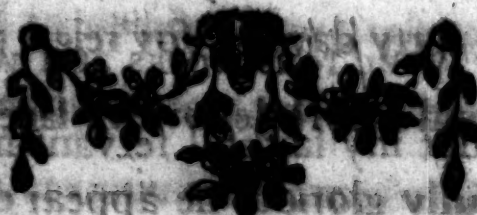
And
Yourself
Let

Let them no more within my sight appear,
 Nor your impatient murmurings reach my ear,
 Lest I on Canaan's holy boundries swear
 Rebellious Israel shall not enter there.
 To Moses I, on yon all hallow'd mount,
 Will my commandments and my laws recount;
 Wherein if you unvaryingly abide,
 I'll make you more than all the earth beside;
 Of priests a consecrated chosen band,
 With precious oil, anointed by my hand;
 Within my sacred temple to abide,
 And in your hearts I will myself reside;
 Henceforth my wondrous works and words adore,
 And never doubt my faithful servant more.
 On the third day, with reverence attend,
 The mountain's foot, when Moses shall ascend,
 With jealous indignation I behold
 Your gods of silver and your gods of gold;
 Mount Sinai,

Yourselves

Yourself with strict obedience sanctify.
 But dare not venture to approach too nigh,
 For fear my faithful Jacob's stubborn race,
 Dissolve before the lustre of my face."
 Jehovah ceas'd : the Israelites dismay'd,
 For pardon of their past transgressions pray'd,
 And promis'd they'd to his commands attend,
 Nor ever more their father's God offend.

END OF THE SECOND BOOK.



[25]
I S R A E L,

A P O E M.

B O O K III.

THE morn appear'd when heav'n's loud trumpet
sound,

Summon'd the tribes at humble distance round,

Whilst Moses climb'd the lofty mountain high,

'Till clouds, enwrap'd him from their gazing eye ;

Which did 'twixt them and glory intervene ;

But a description of the sacred scene,

When during forty days of sov'reign grace,

A creature stood before Jehovah's face,

How wonderfully glorious he appear'd ?

What heav'nly sounds distinguish'd Moses heard,

How great an antipast to him was giv'n

Of the extreme, abundant joys of heav'n ;

ISRAEL

L

What

What the Almighty then to him reveal'd,
(To be from all mankind beside conceal'd)

When he pronounc'd the metaphoric law,

What mortal's pen shall dare presume to draw?

Sure God inform'd him all those types should end,

And to what date their ritual forms extend?

How? beasts on consecrated altars slain,

Shou'd mystically cleanse the fatal stain;

Fall'n man by disobedience first incur'd,

'Till cloth'd in flesh appear'd th' eternal word,

To pour a pard'ning stream from sacred veins,

And Satan bind in everlasting chains;

Why? sin was first permitted to debase?

Adam primeval father of our race?

And to effect redemption's wondrous plan,

From whence expedient? God mix'd well with man?

Enshrin'd in human flesh his sorrows knew,

And drink the dregs of nature's cruel cup.

Meek as a lamb at the tribunal stand
 Of creatures form'd by his Almighty hand;
 Thence to the ignominious cross be led,
 There, in death's anguish, bow his sacred head;
 Whilst his own power divine enthron'd on high,
 Shou'd hang with darkness thro' er spreading sky
 His thunders to earth's inmost bowels send,
 And to their centers solid marbles rend;
 Then in his uncreated splendour shine,
 Cementing human nature with divine;
 And, by his spirit kindly shed abroad,
 Perform each office of the true God;
 Whose attributes and essence, might appear
 To favour'd Moses unperplex'd and clear;
 But shall vain mortal hence be wildly driv'n
 To scrutinize the hidden things of heav'n;
 From finite comprehension to explain
 Jehovah's inconceivable domain?

Of glory uncreate to lift the veil,
 The most exalted mortal powers must fail,
 The wondrous height, and breadth and depth to scan
 Of self-existence, ne'er was meant for man
 But those great truths weak reason can't explore,
 With faith's embrace, and silently adore.
 To Moses supernatural aid was given
 To bear the prospect of the scenes of heav'n,
 Celestial strength did to his breast descend,
 When he convers'd with God, as friend with friend;
 As he approach'd th' eternal's presence near,
 Seraphic sounds struck on his ravish'd ear;
 His face, refulgent with reflected light,
 Eclips'd the sun in her meridian height;
 Angelic hands in waiting, hover'd round
 Th' awe-imprinted agitated ground,
 Which quak'd, as with internal terrors torn,
 Darts of light and thunder usher'd in the morn.

Luminous lightnings, in a blazing stream,
 Attended down the majesty supreme;
 Mount Sinai's smoke did to the skies ascend,
 And round the trembling tribes of Israel bend,
 Conscious ingratitude, with horror arm'd,
 Reverting, all their dread struck minds alarm'd,
 They fear'd in righteous wrath they shou'd be driv'n
 From earth, before the flaming rage of heav'n
 Convictions, awfully impress'd, enforce
 Sudden resolves, and transient remorse,
 That imperceptibly again retire,
 And on vain fortune's first light gale expire;
 They offer'd now, to expunge each daring crime,
 To God, of all their flocks and herds the prime;
 His care with plenty crown'd each rising day,
 In peace at night beneath his wing they lay:
 Yet such th' impatience of the human mind,
 When caprice rules, and wayward passions blind,

That the distinguished as the chosen race,
 And mystically seal'd the fountains of grace;
 They of their leaders long delay complain'd,
 Tho' in the mount, by God himself detain'd.
 Peremptorily they claim'd at Aaron's hand
 A God to guide them to their new fought land,
 And said their richest stores they'd not withhold
 To form a molten deity of gold;
 For those, were Gods that rescu'd them indeed,
 And from the house of bondage Israel freed;
 That he who brought them from a fertile soil,
 Thro' travel, dangers, pilgrimage and toil,
 Had left them in that barren place to mourn,
 And to their succour wou'd no more return.
 To still their clamours, (with reluctant heart)
 A graven calf was form'd by Aaron's art;

To whom they homage paid, and danc'd around,
 With shouts which made the hills resound,
 The blushing sun their sacrifices saw,
 In bold contempt of the Creator's law,
 And with disdain retiring, drew between
 Their luxuries and her night's sable scene,
 With sacrilege they Jacob's God defy'd,
 Which in his ear aloud for vengeance cry'd,
 Whence he to Moses said, "This faithless race
 My power despise, and dare me to my face,
 Bear unto them these holy strict commands,
 (On stone engraven by Almighty hands)
 Which if they violate, I here protest
 They ne'er shall enter to my promis'd rest:
 For in the summit of vindictive ire,
 I will consume them with devouring fire,
 Nor shalt thou for them longer intercede,
 Of whom I'll make a nation great indeed;

Beneath

and Dales
 1

Beneath their feet my covenant they've trod,
 Base to themselves, ungrateful to their God;
 Regardless of the scourge of might divine,
 They bow themselves before a molten shrine."
 " O ! let not power supreme strict veng'ance take,
 Spare the unrighteous for the guiltless sake ;
 Let Abram and the fathers intercede,
 And for their parents sinless children plead ;
 On Israel bend again one gracious look,
 Or blot thy worthless servant from thy book.
 " From Egypt's bondage, by thy guiding hand,
 I have conducted this rebellious band ;
 Let not th' Egyptians thy dominion brave,
 And say the Hebrew's God wants power to save ;
 Who from their land this people did decoy,
 And led them forth more amply to destroy.
 In mercy now from thy fierce anger turn,
 Nor let Almighty wrath 'gainst Israel burn :

Fulfil

Fulfil unerring God thy promis'd deed,
 And give the goodly land to Jacob's seed."
 " Go down then, bid them from their idols turn,
 Their ornaments resign, in sackcloth mourn,
 And lay their sacrilegious rites aside,
 By which they have Omnipotence defy'd.
 If they obey, a bright celestial band
 Shall guide and guard them to the promis'd land."
 Moses, charg'd with heav'n's full commands return'd,
 But his pain'd soul with indignation burn'd;
 To find Jehovah from their minds eras'd,
 And in his stead a senseless image plac'd.
 Young Joshua, the well-instructed son,
 The zealous offspring of religious Nun,
 (Who did in paths his early footsteps lead,
 Where he in future might with safety tread)
 Said, " How can Israel hope protection more?
 Or e'er for succour Abrams God implore?"

Attend, and while your folly is display'd,
 Summon but common reason to your aid,
 It will declare the baseness of your choice,
 Whilst conscience shall convict with clam'rous voice;
 Suppose, in righteous wrath, and just disdain,
 Unto our pray'rs God ne'er shou'd bend again?
 No more supply us from his bounteous hand,
 And bar our passage to the promis'd land?
 Say, will the stupid idol you have rais'd,
 And with lewd acclamations loudly prais'd,
 Call down refreshment from the subject skies,
 And grant our natur's every need supply's?
 In his own name success for us command,
 And drive out heathens from their native land?
 For us disperse their scatter'd nations far,
 Give ease in toils, and victory in war?
 Moisten the rocks, the raging wave divide,
 And stand Omnipotent on Israel's side?

Both

Both are extremes, and the decision nice,
 Which does excell, your ignorance or vice?
 To leave the Lord of hosts, and sacred hold,
 A base inanimated lump of gold;
 To keep our hearts from prostitution clear
 Must a continu'd miracle appear?
 How lately did we thro' his pow'rful hand,
 The num'rous troops of Amalek withstand?
 In vain did his train'd bands o'erspread the ground,
 Their ensigns wave, and silver trumpets sound;
 Angelic legions were dispatch'd from heav'n,
 And vict'ry to distinguish'd Israel given:
 Useless lay Moses's inactive rod;
 But whilst extended in the name of God,
 Their hosts were vanquish'd, their designs annoy'd,
 This arm prevail'd, and Amalek destroy'd!

Often the Hebrews their rebellion mourn'd,
 As oft again to disobedience turn'd

Moses thro' prayer and sangs unceasing,
 From heav'n, remission of their faults obtain'd;
 Long Israel's crimes, and his petitions plead,
 Now their transgressions, now his prayers succeed;
 Uprais'd Jehovah, with just rage inflam'd,
 His irrevocable decree proclaim'd.
 " I am the Lord who spread the heav'ns abroad,
 Of pow'r supreme, there is no other God;
 Angels that glitter round th' eternal throne,
 Bow down, adore, and worship me alone,
 From whom perpetual streams of mercy flow,
 And goodness beams on all my works below;
 I blot my creature's errors from my mind
 Am slow to wrath, long suffering and kind;
 To guilty thousands, hold out pard'ning grace,
 That with sincere repentance seek my face;
 But stubborn rebels shall my judgments bear,
 And in their punishment their children share;

As

(As universal death reigns over all,
 The dire effects of your first parents' fall)
 In vain my wonders and peculiar grace,
 Have favor'd this impenetrable race,
 Whence all who came mature from Egypt's land,
 Shall be cut off with a vindictive hand,
 Of the devouring sword, and raging fire
 I'll inquisition for their crimes require,
 By which they in this wilderness shall die,
 And here their putrid mangled bodies lye
 Except Jephunneh's unpolluted son,
 And Joshua, virtuous heir of holy Nun,
 He shall those children lead, with tender care,
 To Canaan's land, (and they shall enter there)
 For whom their parents in the desert cry'd,
 "The Lord is not sufficient to provide."

But stubborn rebels shall my judgments bear,

That in their punishment their children share;

Thus shall the goodly land (thro' sov'reign grace) nU
 Of Canaan be possess'd by Jacob's race; and bnA
 Whence in direct succession, time shall bring; and T
 To bless all lands, a prophet, priest, and king;
 Who shall illum' all nations of the earth, 2
 And hymning angels celebrate his birth; non bnA
 He shall dispense the sacred law, and found
 The gracious trumpet of salvation, round
 The spac'ous globe, whence potentates and kings
 Will seek the shelter of his healing wings; He nT
 To him shall isles remote and distant shores; and bnA
 Pour the rich tribute of their choicest stores, Ma O
 Gentiles submit, and heathen nations bend, thim A
 To his dominion which shall never end. O
 In him whoe'er believes shall find the grace
 By oath confirm'd to Jacob's num'rous race; bnA
 The circumcis'd in heart be Abram's seed, ewoq gill
 Each faithful soul an Israelite indeed: Descriptive w

Unto the younger generations speak,
 And charge them not my holy laws to break;
 Then will I o'er their wand'ring steps preside,
 Direct their paths, and in their hearts abide,
 Safely conduct them to their promis'd rest,
 And none permit to curse whom God hath blest.

When Balak from his lofty terrace saw
 The Hebrews near his territories draw,
 And their fair tents (with fragrant garlands deck'd)
 On Moab's spacious verdant plains erect
 Amidst mild breezes, and enlivening beams
 Of sun and shade, near Jordan's pleasant streams;
 He fear'd their num'rous forces might overwhelm
 (And devastation spread throughout his realm)
 His powers he thought too impotent to wield
 Defensive weapons in the hostile field;

As fame reported, they from Egypt's land
 Had been protected by an unseen hand,
 An instant council he did straight convene,
 Of princes, lords, and honourable men.
 "Behold your king of majesty disarm'd!
 Whom gods nor men ne'er till this hour alarm'd:
 Amongst the foremost (on th' embattel'd ground
 Whilst swelling streams of blood meander'd round)
 To aid my country, and defend its laws,
 My arm has been immortal in the cause:
 But now my intrepidity is shewn,
 And Balak fears, tho' guarded on his throne;
 Against those legion bands we can't prevail,
 In opposition all our powers must fail;
 Unless some well concerted plan takes place,
 We can't expel th' invulnerable race."

To Balaam, son of Beor haste, whose fame
 Eclipses every other prophet's name,

"I have

N

His

His benedictions blessings do succeed,
 And whom he execrates, are cur'd indeed :
 Say to him, " Thus saith Balak, Moab's king,
 If Balaam to my soul will comfort bring,
 Th' intruders curse, and drive them from the land,
 It's glories shall be vested in his hand ;
 In Moab's treasures, Balaam shall abound,
 Be high exalted, and with honours crown'd.

Balaam to th' Ambassadors reply'd,
 " Beneath my humble roof this night abide ;
 The message you from Moab's monarch bring,
 I'll lay before the universal king ;
 Whose counsel is the uncontested clue,
 Of what I dare, and what I dare not do."

At early dawn Balaam forsook his rest,
 And Balak's royal messengers address'd,

" I have consulted th' eternal's mind
 On your strict importunity, and find
 Jehovah does protect, and call his own,
 No people but the Israelites alone ;
 Therefore I can't comply with your request,
 Being forbid to curse whom God hath blest :
 Bear to your king this positive reply,
 (Urg'd by injunction of the Lord most high)
 If Balak wou'd his diadem resign,
 And make the land of Moab solely mine,
 Submit unto my absolute command
 All the rich treasures of sea and land,
 And kneeling nations to my sway subdue,
 T' obtain them all, this thing I cou'd not do."
 " O ! say not so the messengers reply'd,
 Crush not the king, distress'd on every side,
 Once more with thy petitions heav'n assail,
 So true a vo'try surely must prevail ;

Come

Come in his power, clear our invaded coasts,
 And we will venerate the Lord of Hosts.
 Balaam again obtrudes on the most high,
 (For Moab's treasures glitter'd in his eye)
 O! thou who o'er creation dost preside,
 Let thy direction now thy servant guide,
 My operations all thy rule confess,
 In thy great name I execrate and bless;
 Let some bright delegate descend and bring
 Permission to redress this injur'd king.
 God said, "Go with the princes to their land,
 But for thy guidance, wait my high command.
 Balaam no more enquires, but onward goes
 From Moab's borders to expel their foes;
 Precipitately at the dawn of day,
 Whence an arm'd angel stop'd the prophet's way.
 In blazing rays the radiant foe appear'd,
 Which Balaam's timid beast, beholding fear'd,

And the seerated gladly, why dost thou
 Trembled beneath him, and forsook the shadow
 Which vainly he endeavour'd to regain, he
 The ass dropp'd down regardless of the reins, and
 From whom intelligent expression broke, yet the
 And she with human voice to Balaam spoke, can
 "What have I done my master to offend? no
 Didst thou so strictly to thy God attend, nor
 As I've submitted to thy guiding hand, which
 E'er since the day thou didst me first command, 2
 I needed not exert my feeble strife, know
 From you bright angel to defend thy life, (and
 Who held, as all my tim'rous steps express'd, which
 The sword of justice, pointed at thy breast, in
 Balaam with eyes unscal'd, the angel saw, no
 And sunk unto the ground, o'erpower'd with awe,
 The splendid messenger of God drew near, is
 And spoke in thunder to his conscious ear, when

Ala

3 M

"Why

" Why dost thou with perverſe ſe God offend?
 From whom all good and perfect gifts deſcend?
 He, from his treaſuries, adorns the mind,
 And variegate the talents of mankind;
 Yet the diſcerning eloquent and wiſe,
 Can boaſt but of the bounty of the ſky,
 No good inherent in thy breaſt doth glow,
 Nor graces dwell, but what from mercy flow,
 Which, if a while with-held, thy breaſt would be
 Sagacious full, and rational as thee;
 Know 'tis for diſobedience I withſtand,
 (And avarice) thy way to Balak's land,
 Where thou wert haſting, ere thou didſt obtain
 Inſtructions what to do, and what refrain;
 No more with lips fallacious, heav'n addreſs,
 Whiſt thy deſires gold's ſordid ſway confeſs,
 Nor at the throne of God for aid appear,
 When temporal rewards excite thy prayer;
 Why

Ask not assistance from the hand divine
 To lay thy vanquish'd heart at honour's shrine;
 From Mammon hence thy wand'ring thoughts re-
 strain
 Th' exchange how awful? th' pursuit how vain?
 To shine the pageant of time's transient day,
 And cast thy soul eternally away!
 In thy own name was no endowment given
 To be exerted, but the name of heav'n,
 When Balak urges thee, the power confess
 Alone in Jacob's God to curse and bless;
 By him conducted thro' his royal bow'rs,
 Israel to view from Moab's stately tow'rs,
 When thou the borders of their camp inspects,
 Pronounce the words Omnipotence directs.
 Arriv'd at Moab Balaam did demand
 Offerings to heav'n, at royal Balak's hand, In

In sacrifice were rams and bullocks slain;
 And Balaam sought the power to curse in vain;
 By impulse irresistible impell'd,
 He cry'd when he their beauteous camp beheld;
 "Jacob! how goodly are thy tents, how fair
 O Israel! thy tabernacles are;
 As smiling valley's by the flowing side
 Of chrystal rivers, whence fair waters glide,
 And gardens, where all nature's sweets abound,
 With stately cedars grac'd and guarded round,
 Within whose bound'ries fragrant flow'ers blow,
 Fresh verdure springs, and fruits luxuriant grow;
 With aromatic shoots profusely given,
 Planted and nurtur'd by the hand of heav'n;
 Of bondage under haughty Pharaoh's reign,
 Angelic squadrons broke the galling chain;
 Thence powerfully brought thy favour'd bands,
 And conquer'd all th' opposing heathen lands.

O'er

O'er them, by that empire shall be possess'd,
 By all their kings thy powerful sway confest,
 To thy supremacy be homage shown,
 As subject beasts the sov'reign lion own,
 Who stalks the forest with majestic pace,
 And growls dominion o'er the savage race.
 Thy feed as sands that load the briny shore
 Progressive shall descend 'till time be o'er,
 From Jacob an illust'ous star arise
 Whose sceptre shall extend o'er earth and skies;
 Who favours Israel heav'n will still befriend,
 And those accurse who dare with them contend.

The king engag'd, cry's faithless prophet cease!
 With Israel's glories wound not Balak's peace,
 Cou'd Moab's dazz'ling treasures not suffice
 To wing thy execrations thro' the skies?

On Jacob's abject race its terrors shed,
 With lightnings blast, and thunders strike them dead;
 Thee thus to act, did my high summons bring,
 But thou hast bid defiance to a king;
 Lost to preferment, may the edict gall
 In thine obscure retreat, thy grovelling soul,
 Where, in thy native indigence remain,
 And thank thy God for poverty and pain.

END OF THE THIRD BOOK.



With Israel's glories wound not Balak's peace,
 Could Moab's dazzling treasures not induce
 To wing thy execrations thro' the skies;
 O
 ISRAEL,

I S R A E L,

A P O E M.

B O O K I V.

O'ER the d d the revolving sun
 Had now near forty annual circles run,
 Whilst Moles did his task untir'd pursue,
 For time was not commission'd to subdue
 His active powers, her conqu'ring banners spread
 Dim his bright eyes, nor whiten o'er his head
 Upon his features no rude track appears
 Of tedious pilgrimage, and num'rous years;
 For gently, as the bloom of youth gave way
 To charms of ripen'd manhood's milder sway,
 So age, advancing with majestic mien,
 In graceful pomp display'd life's closing scene,

The summon'd tribes submissively attend
 Their great conductor, and unwearied friend,
 Once more his venerable face to view
 His final charge receive, and last adieu.

B O O K IV.

“ My brethren dear, I by command divine,
 My charge of you to Joshua resign;
 For whom I would your duteous minds prepare,
 Ye tender plants, the children of my care;
 My longing soul eternal rest desires,
 And to the grave mortality retires,
 Yet may your graces (e'er life's sands be run)
 Glow in the rays of my declining sun,
 The late just judgments of th' o'er-ruling lord,
 (Of obstinate offence the sure reward)
 Which disobedience on your fathers drew,
 In all their horrors ever keep in view;

And be you by that awful warning driv'n
 From base ingratitude to bounteous heav'n
 Enquire unto creation's utmost bound
 Ask angels who th' eternal's throne surround
 And see his wond'rous works, if e'er they knew
 A people bless'd and dignify'd like you?
 O'er men distinguish'd, Jacob's offspring stands,
 As works superior of Almighty hands
 Did ever kindred, nation, tongue or race
 So plent'ously enjoy his sov'reign grace?
 Hear his tremendous voice and not expire?
 And (unconsum'd) behold him cloth'd in fire?
 With his own hand he has untied the yoke
 Of slav'ry, and your captive fetters broke,
 From bondage freed, and you declar'd his own,
 Laid waste a realm, and shook a tyrant's throne,
 Blasted a land by his vindictive breath
 In darkness veil'd, and cover'd it with death;

He laid the raging billows on an heap,
 And brought you thro' th' bowels of the deep;
 Then bid again the rushing waters close,
 And in their bosom wrap your daring foes;
 Those mighty wonders, tho' your fathers saw,
 They wou'd not yield obedience to his law;
 But with continual miracles in view
 Rebell'd before you good or evil knew,
 Often between them, and th' impending rod
 Of veng'ance, to appease an angry God;
 With heart sincere I've interpos'd my prayer
 That Israel still might be Jehovah's care,
 Whence mercy did the reins of justice guide,
 And lay th' uplifted thunderbolt aside:
 Until their bold mountainous crimes did rise
 And dare the vengeance of the flaming skies;
 Which, under swift destruction's eager hand,
 Excluded them from Canaan's promis'd land;

That, (on account of their atrocious sin)
 I shall behold, but never enter in,
 From Tighai's top, its prospect far survey,
 Thence, wing my sight to everlasting day.
 Therefore O Israel! zealously attend,
 The last injunctions of a dying friend,
 Strictly adhere to those divine commands,
 Drawn for your practice by all hallow'd hands;
 So shall you Jacob's temp'ral rest obtain,
 And dazzling crowns of endless glory gain
 In heav'nly Canaan's pure celestial lands,
 Where Zion's king's imperial city stands.
 No un surmountable obstruction lyes
 Twixt you, and realms extended o'er the skies,
 Nor does a rigid pre-determin'd doom
 Consign you down to everlasting gloom,
 At your disposal the last fiat stands,
 Your weal and woe's committed to your hands,

*Evil and good before you laid to chuse,
 (One t' embrace, th' other to refuse)
 By him who'll on the clouds enthron'd, declare
 Who own'd him here, shall reign for ever there,
 He knows our weakness, doth our anguish feel,
 Our failings pity, and our sorrows heal,
 And, tho' severe to th' obdurate mind,
 To human frailty's, lenitive and kind;
 Your mortal frames confess his forming hand,
 Which breathe and move alone at his command,
 Made liable to ills to seek his face,
 To error prone, t' implore his aiding grace;
 On him rely, and you he'll wisely guide
 Both from despair, and self presumptive pride;
 (Pernicious precipice! which wrecks that soul
 Who does from the delusive summit fall)

* DEUTERONOMY, ch. xxx. v. 19.

* Evil

Approach

Approach with reverence his transcendent throne,
 There make your sorrows and afflictions known,
 Which in return to your unfeigned prayer,
 He will remove, or strengthen you to bear;
 And when to him your grateful songs you raise,
 Applauding angels shall assist your lays,
 The land where all terrestrial good unites,
 (Pledge of more permanent sublime delights)
 Which your forefather's virtues did procure,
 By virtue, to your unborn race insure;
 Their lasting tenour fix where freedom reigns,
 Triumphant, over bonds, and captive chains:
 That God, whose word shall set the world on fire,
 Nature dissolve, and make the heav'ns retire;
 Declares your sins a canopy shall spread
 Of indignation o'er your children's head,
 And judgment due to bold presumptuous crimes,
 Be pour'd in torrents o'er succeeding times;

Whilst

Whilst blessings on posterity shall flow,
 From your submission to his perfect law;
 Let pity's gentle call your hearts obey,
 And yield to supplicating nature's sway;
 For future smiling innocents prepare
 Mercy in their first animating air,
 And Israel's race enroll with Abram's name,
 In heav'n's fair records of unfading fame.
 And now my friends, a long and last adieu,
 Joshua's instructions faithfully pursue,
 (Model of virtue and unerring truth,
 From his mild blossom of unfully'd youth)
 Chosen from all our tribes (supremely blest)
 Safely to guide you to the land of rest;
 Whate'er appears his progress to withstand,
 Shall be remov'd by heav'n's superior hand;
 Receding waters o'er their banks shall flow,
 Fair Jordan's pure transparent flood withdraw,

And (his diving commission to fulfil)
 The glorious orbs of day and night stand still
 Awhile their beams around the world suspend,
 And o'er his consecrated head attend.
 I go where arms of everlasting love,
 Extend t' embrace me from the throne above :
 Paternally exhale this sinking breath,
 And gild my transit thro' the vale of death.
 Here Moses ceas'd, whilst Israel pensive round,
 With streaming eyes bedew'd th' hallow'd ground ;
 Then to their tents, with yoe-swoll'n hearts return'd,
 And thirty days in solemn sadness mourn'd
 Wherein the plains resounded with their cries,
 And echoing hills and vallies caught their sighs.
 Joshua, with heart resign'd, yet love sincere,
 In secret shed th' undisssembled tear,
 And to the silent grove retir'd to weep,
 (For grief unfeign'd refus'd the balm of sleep)

" Accept this tribute to thy memory giv'n;
 Thou faithful shepherd of the fold of heav'n;
 To Israel's grateful obsequies attend;
 Dear hov'ring shade of our lamented friend;
 If thou on us canst turn thy pitying eye
 (From gazing on th' beatitude on high)
 And for a-while be suffer'd to dispense
 With joys unfetter'd with th' alloys of sense;
 O ! let a portion of thy spirit fall
 To animate my unexperienc'd soul,
 And on thy radiant plumage kindly bear
 To mercy's throne, my supplicating prayer;
 That I auspiciously may Israel lead,
 And to thy graces with thy charge succeed;
 Eternal Father ! yield to this request,
 Let diffidence of thee ne'er taint my breast;
 Nor all the pow'rs that shall obstruct our way,
 Nor Jordan's flood my steadfast faith dismay;

With singleness of heart, O! let me guide
And equally thy people's lot divide.

As Joshua near the brink of Jordan drew,

Back to their fountain-head the currents flew;

The loyal waves at heav'n's command gave place,

To yield the promis'd land to Jacob's race;

At his first entrance Joshua wond'ring stood

Within the shade of a capacious wood,

When a bright presence broke, by mild degrees,

In shining armour thro' th' embow'ring trees.

The glorious form a martial visage wore,

And in his hand a glitt'ring poinard bore;

Said Joshua, "Offspring of approachless light,

(For sure nought mortal can appear so bright)

Bear'st thou the embassage of pard'ning love?

Or sword of justice from the courts above?

The angel said, "Fear not, this hallow'd ground

With peace is fenc'd, and grace encompass'd round,

I head the armies of the camps of heav'n
 To my command the angel bands are giv'n
 The God of battles at his counsel board
 Assigns all victories to this conqu'ring sword
 My arms are justice, equity, and right
 Mine ensigns, judgment, righteousness and might
 My heralds rage, and vengeance from above
 My aid de camps, mercy and sparing love
 Which from the father of mankind descend
 And unto earth's remotest verge extend
 When lucifer, the great arch-angel, swell'd
 With pride, against creation's fount rebell'd
 Dar'd boldly strive th' eternal throne t' ascend
 And from Omnipotence the sceptre rend
 I was commission'd with my troops t' arise
 And quell th' insurrection in the skies
 Drive rebel legions, from the azure plains
 To dark abodes and never ending pains

And in their vacant seats of glory, place
 Th' genuine heirs of faithful Abram's grade
 To Moses ! o'er Ethiop conquest gave
 And plung'd proud Pharaoh in the boil'rous wave
 'Gainst Amalek your cause I did maintain,
 And will o'er kings combin'd your victory gain
 Vainly shall they your entrance withstand
 When by th' prowess of this conqu'ring hand;
 Yon fort impregnable ! that brazen wall
 Those mighty tow'rs of Jericho shall fall,
 Her spacious streets with gushing blood o'erflow
 And lanes of slaughter mark the gen'ral woe
 To none but Rahab be exemption given,
 Endear'd by penitence and zeal to heav'n,
 Her filial duty, in th' almighty's eye,
 Expunges all her crimes of crimson dye;
 Whence o'er her soul such streams of pardon flow,
 As wash her stains as white as new fall'n snow:

To Israel's deputies, *the shelter gave,
 And did them from the hands of rapine save,
 Shew'd them the inmost corners of the land,
 And lent to their escape an aiding hand,
 Her keen sensations long the reins had given,
 To love unblest'd, un sanctify'd by heav'n;
 For int'rest, no variety inclin'd,
 And every guilty passion of the mind;
 For all alike the ready flame confest
 Whilst vice and lucre sway'd her wanton breast:
 Now see those arms, to lewd embraces prone,
 Extend for mercy to th' eternal throne;
 Behold with ardour there she humbly bends,
 To save her parents, relatives and friends.

"Great power supreme, whose all pervading eye,
 Doth the recesses of the heart espy;

* Second Chapter of Joshua.

Each latent wish, and every motion there
 (Tho' hid from man) to thine inspection's bare;
 My crimes in raging waves of terror roll,
 And overwhelm my trembling sinking soul;
 This bosom, clos'd by vice, thou hast unseal'd,
 And there the God of Israel reveal'd,
 Convictions here and rumour from abroad,
 Convince me thou'rt alone the living God;
 In mercy let my aged parents live,
 My penitence accept, my crimes forgive,
 Nor sweep (on Jericho's destruction day)
 Myself and friends in all our sins away.
 In pity spare, fix not the righteous dart
 Of wrath divine, in my polluted heart:
 Th' unrighteous Mammon (from th' unwary drain'd)
 That Rahab's past iniquities obtain'd,
 The servants of Jehovah shall partake,
 'Tis all th' atonement Lord, that I can make.

From

From hills of light thy gracious ear incline,
 To this impure, imperfect prayer of mine,
 And one great earnest of thy pardon give,
 When Israel conquers, let my household live.
 Jehovah said, "Ye angels round attend,
 Behold with contrite heart, poor Rahab bend,
 Descend sweet peace from thy celestial seat,
 Her crimes are num'rous, but her faith is great,
 By soft infusion, in her tortur'd breast,
 Sooth all her griefs, and lull her fears to rest;
 Bid her the lenity of heav'n adore,
 And from this period, "Sin again no more."
 Thus shall the distant nations, from abroad
 Be gather'd to the kingdom of your God,
 And sit with Abram near the throne of grace,
 (Bright with the beams of Shiloh's glorious face)
 The heart sincere, the penitential prayer,
 Shall never fail to find admission there.

But the rebellious sons of Israel's seed,
 (Whilst they their birth and parentage shall plead)
 Will find the capture of those spacious lands,
 Their only portion from Jehovah's hands.
 Whence piety and grateful strains of praise,
 Will be the employment of her future days;

Go now, seven days great Jericho surround;
 Your consecrated horns, and trumpets sound,
 When heav'n's own pow'r shall strike the conqu'ring
 And lay their palaces and bulwarks low; [blow,
 The king and nobles give to Israel's hands,
 And crown with triumph his own chosen bands:
 The Father's blood your reeking swords shall drain,
 Their babes augment th' number of the slain,
 Nor shall the matron grave, nor budding fair,
 (Of Heav'n's revenge) your destin'd weapons spare;
 Because the crimes of Jericho outvies
 Th' fix'd forbearance of th' pard'ning skies;
 O'pposing

Her hour is come, her desolation's great;
 Her measure of iniquity's compleat;
 Rahab alone, that monument of grace,
 Shall be protected by the Hebrew race,
 Whence piety and grateful strains of praise,
 Will be th' employment of her future days;
 On strength immortal thy dependence stay,
 Whilst I unseen lead on thy conqu'ring way;
 Israel, if they the Lord's commands pursue,
 Shall every hostile land and realm subdue;
 But when they from his holy laws depart
 (Through th' devices of the sensual heart,)
 I'll aid unto their enemies afford,
 And 'gainst their arms unsheath my keenest sword.

Joshua, thus animated from on high,
 By th' celestial envoy of the sky;

Opposing smiles routed, states annoy'd,
 Bound kings in chains, and palaces destroy'd,
 And foul'd Israel's tribes at God's command,
 In their inhospitable Canaan's land.
 Then to his own retreat retir'd in praise
 To heav'n to spend th' evening of his days.
 To them he said, tho' I from toil retreat,
 I leave you with a father's fond regret;
 Fearing, immersed in luxury, you'll spurn
 Your God, and to the heathen idols turn;
 Of treacherous prosperity beware,
 For smiling rains often ambush there,
 Bind not your hearts to Canaan's temp'ral ground,
 But strive for lots where purer joys abound;
 In heav'nly Canaan, that divine behest,
 By Abram and the father's now possess'd;

And think not to say, We have Abram to our father; for I
 lay unto you that God is able of these stones to raise up children
 unto Abram. MATTHEW 23:31.

Tinnath-Serah.

For

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There,

There, stands the palaces of Salem's king;
 There, saints and seraphs ever sit and sing;
 There, richest fruits and flowers unfading grow,
 And gentle streams of living waters flow;
 There reigns eternal spring, perpetual day,
 And pleasures, that shall never know decay:
 The road to that inestimable land,
 Is pointed out in the express command,
 To feed the stranger and th' neighbouring poor,
 To love thy brother, and thy God adore:
 These precepts well observ'd we all shall meet,
 And join our grateful songs at Shiloh's feet:
 But if you sacrilegious gods devise,
 Think not to claim a kindred in the skies,
 Nor under sanction of fam'd Abram's name,
 Your perfidy to veil, and hide your shame:

* And think not to say, We have Abram to our father; for I
 say unto you that God is able of these stones to raise up children
 unto Abram. MATTHEW, chap. iii. v. 9.

For nations now (by ign'rance only bard)

As adamantite rocks and marbles hard

Will melt beneath the beams of sov'reign grace,

When you abjure a smiling Saviour's face:

With whom the lineal descent shall cease

Of Israel to engross Jehovah's peace

Who, for his own inheritance doth feal

Th' heirs of Abram's faith, and Jacob's zeal

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